

To: Cynthia Staszak[cstaszak@blm.gov]; Matthew Betenson[mbetenso@blm.gov]
From: Crutchfield, Larry
Sent: 2017-08-11T18:38:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Draft Hot Topics
Received: 2017-08-11T18:38:43-04:00
2017 August - Grand Staircase Hot Topics.docx

Attached is my first stab at developing the Hot Topics for the upcoming ASLM visit. Edit as you see fit. It is due to the SO External Affairs by COB Monday, 14 August.

--

Respectfully,
Larry "E" Crutchfield
Public Affairs Officer
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Office: 435-644-1209
Cell: 435-691-4310
Personal: 435-899-9203

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment

GSENM is amending the 1999 Monument Management Plan to more thoroughly address livestock grazing decisions. Once complete, this planning effort will result in decisions about which lands should be available for livestock grazing, how much forage could be available for livestock, and specific best management practices for grazing management on the Monument.

The planning decision may impact up to 2.1 million acres and includes lands in the Kanab and Arizona Strip field offices as well as lands managed by the National Park Service in a portion of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where the GSENM administers livestock grazing.

Although grazing use levels have varied considerably from year to year due to factors like drought, no reductions in permitted livestock grazing use have been made as a result of the Monument's designation nearly 20 years ago.

The GSENM provided draft alternatives for public input in December 2014. These draft alternatives were revised based on public feedback and updates were provided to the public in June 2016.

Coordination with counties has been a priority.

The draft EIS is under Washington Office review.

On April 26, President Donald Trump signed an executive order mandating Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to lead a review of monuments created since 1996 that comprise at least 100,000 acres. The final report is due August 24.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Coal/Oil/Gas/Minerals

GSENM lands were withdrawn from mineral extraction by Presidential Proclamation but subject to valid existing rights for leasable minerals including coal, oil and gas, and minerals.

No coal lands have been explored or coal produced within GSENM since designation. Existing coal leases were voluntarily exchanged for Federal payments totaling \$19.5 million (not adjusted for inflation). The Kaiparowits plateau, located with GSENM, contains one of the largest coal deposits in the United States. USGS projected "an original resource" of 62 billion tons of coal with a geologic and mining technology adjusted resource of 30 billion tons. Utah Geological Service projected 11.36 billion tons are "technologically recoverable."

There are currently five active oil-producing wells, two injection wells and an oil load-out site. Thirty-four oil and gas leases (45,894 acres) are in suspension while a Combined Hydrocarbon Lease (CHL) conversion application is processed.

No new Free Use, commercial, or over-the-counter permits for mineral materials have been issued since designation. Valid existing permits, including those in Title 23 (Three Federal Highway Rights of Way), continue to be recognized until permit expiration.

No new mining claims were issued after designation; however, existing claims and active mines were allowed to continue.